(Seventy-first Amendment) Bill, 1990 which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 1992 and is pending consideration in the Lok Sabha provides for delimitation of constituencies on the basis of 1991 census without affecting the total number of seats allocated to various States on the basis of 1971 census Action for setting up of Delimitation Commission can be taken only after the said Bill becomes an Act.

Free legal aid scheme in A. P.

2042. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of persons who were benefited by Legal Aid Programme during 1992-93 in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether Government propose to change the norms laid down for the scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that the funds released under this scheme to Andhra Pradesh during 1992-93 were not utilised fully ; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) On the basis of the information received from the State Legal Aid and Advice Bodras, 11,30,771 persons were benefitted by Legal Aid Programmes during 1992-93 in the country which includes 2,227 persons from Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which is yet to be enforced, enhances the income ceiling from Rs. 6,000 to 9,000 upto High Court cases and from Rs. 9,000 to 12,000 for Supreme Court cases.

(c) and (d) Eight grantee institutions of Andhra Pradesh which were release grant-in-aid during 1992-93 were to render the accounts by 30th June, 1993. So far accounts have been received from four institutions. Three have utilised the entire grant of Rs. 10,000 and one institution has utilissed Rs. 9,638 out of the grant-in-aid of Rs. 10,000 released to it.

Criteria fixed for free legal aid

2043. SHRI IQBAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that free legal aid to the poor, women, widows and other weaker sections of the society is available in the country, particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what criteria has been fixed; and

(c) what is the number of persons who have been benefited by this legal aid programme in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana, during the period 1991—93 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the model Scheme evolved by the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Scheme (CILAS), every citizen whose annal income from all sources does not exceeded Rs. 6,000 upto High Court cases and Rs. 9,000 for Supreme Court cases is entitled for free legal aid and advice. This limitation as to incomes does not apply in case of disputes where one of the parties belongs to Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes, Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes or is a women or a child. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which is yet to be enforced, enhances and income ceiling from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 9,000 upto High Court cases and Rs. 9,000 to Rs. 12,000 for Supreme Court Cases.

The income criteria prescribed by CILAS is the minimum. The State Governments may fix income ceiling higher than what has been prescribed by CILAS e.g. a resident of Punjab with an annual income of Rs. 18,000 is eligible for legal aid in the State of Punjab.

(c) As per information received by CILAS, the number of persons benefited by

the legal aid programme in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana, during the period from 1991—93 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State Legal Aid and Advice Board	Number of persons benefitted
1.	Punjab	8,681
2.	Madhya Pradesh	87,479
3.	Delhi	4,916
4.	Haryana	1,552

Free Legal Aid in Saurashtra region of Gujarat

2044. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked by Government for free legal aid to the poor and economically weaker sections of society during each of last three years and its utilisation, particularly in Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Amreli, Jamnagar, Surendra Nagar and Kutch districts of Saurashtra region;

(b) the reasons for not utilising these funds in some districts of Gujarat; and

(c) the effective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the central Government to make available free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society in Saurashtra region of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The sanctioned Budget Grant under the sub-head 'Grant-in-aid' was Rs. 47 lakhs in 1990-91 and Rs. 40 lakhs each for 1991-92 and 1992-93 respectively. The grants released to the Gujarat State Legal Aid and Advice Board etc. during the last three years are as under:

Financial Year	Grant released
	(Rs.)
1990-91	1,00,000
1991-92	2,10,262
1992-93	1,75,136

The State Legal Aid and Advice Board distributes the grant amongst the District Legal Aid Committees on the basis of the Legal Aid Programmes to be undertaken by them. Special grant is given by Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) on demand and during the years in question CILAS has not rejected any proposal for grant coming from Saurashtra region

(b) The reasons for non-utilisation of the funds by a State Government may differ for a variety of reasons depending upon law and order, floods/drought and attitude of the professionals etc.

(c) Various Legal Aid Programmes, such as promotion of Legal Literacy, holding of Legal Aid Camps/Lok Adalats, and Training of Para-Legal, etc. are being organised to make available Free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society in different parts of the country including Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

Restrictions on joining legal profession.

2045. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI G. G. SWELL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that these law graduates who have since retired from service are debarred to join legal profession when they have crossed over a certain age limit;

(b) if so, the purpose behind this decision and the date of implementation of the decision;

(c) whether such a decision has evoked sharp reaction; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Bar Council of India has framed a rule prohibiting law gradrates above the age of 45 years from entering the legal profession. The said role came into force on 25-9-1993. It was claimed that the said rule was frame in public interest.